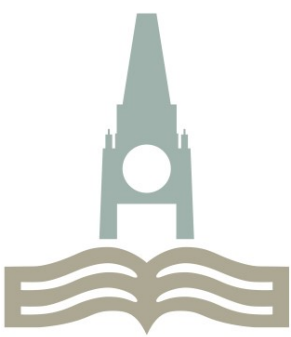


Spring 2018



Parliamentary
Internship Programme

Bulletin



The 2017-18 Parliamentary Interns: (back row) Ross Linden-Fraser, Emily Jensen, Patrick Butler, Alex Miller-Pelletier, Andrew Merrell, Kim Paradis, (front row) Aurélie Skrobik, Rose St-Pierre, Avnee Paranjape, and Ronald Hoffman

The Parliamentary Internship Programme is a non-partisan educational initiative of the Canadian Political Science Association in partnership with the House of Commons

Director's Message

The 2017-18 Parliamentary Internship Programme of the Canadian Political Science Association was buoyed by the brilliance of the this year's wonderful paid, full-time, non-partisan cohort: Patrick Butler, Ronnie Hoffman, Emily Jensen, Ross Linden-Fraser, Andrew Merrell, Alex Miller-Pelletier, Kim Paradis, Avnee Paranjape, Aurélie Skrobik, and Rose St-Pierre. Those of us fortunate to work with these 10 extraordinary young people have been struck, time and time again, by their capacity to support each other and tackle a tremendous range of projects with grace and diplomacy.

This year, the interns designed and delivered interactive workshops for Encounters with Canada, the Boys and Girls Clubs, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. They took part in six legislative study tours and organized incoming visits for interns and fellows from British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Québec, and the United States Congress. The interns also presented their innovative research papers at the 8th Annual Jean-Pierre Gaboury Symposium, which was hosted by the Institute on Governance in June.

Just like the first intern cohort in 1970, this year's interns have spent most of their time working directly for two Members of Parliament: one from government, and one from opposition. These 20 remarkable MPs—and their equally fantastic staff—did a wonderful job hosting our interns and sharing their passion for representative democracy.

The interns and MPs are at the core of a unique “community of communities” that makes up the Programme. This includes sponsors, House officials (particularly Johanna Mizgala, Curator of the House of Commons, and Charles Robert, Clerk of the House of Commons), Library of Parliament staff, political scientists, friends of the programme, and our extraordinary alumni. Their shared commitment to the research and education of the interns create truly unique opportunity for participant observation. I also want to underline the work of our recent programme assistants: Lucie Paquette, Marylène St-Jean, and now Rebecca Jones, and the CPSA Administrator, Michelle Hopkins.

I hope you will enjoy reading about the interns' work in their annual Bulletin. You can also follow the interns' new Instagram account (@stageparlinternship), which joins PIP Twitter (@parlinternship), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ParlInternship/>), and our new website (pip-psp.org) as an essential way for the interns to share their experiences and their interest in politics.

Last but not least: on May 9, 10, and 11, 2019, the Programme will celebrate its 50th anniversary. This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize alumni, mentors and supporters of our Programme, a community of people devoted to Parliament and young Canadians. We hope to see you there!



Dr. Anne Dance
Director, Parliamentary Internship Programme



Save the Date, 2018-19

PIP Fall Reception:

November 28, 2018

PIP 50th Anniversary

May 9, 10 and 11, 2019

**Jean-Pierre Gaboury
Symposium:**

June 18, 2019

Patron of the Parliamentary Internship Programme

Following his election as Speaker of the House of Commons, the Honorable Geoff Regan agreed to serve as the Patron of the Parliamentary Internship Program. He is the tenth consecutive speaker to fill this role since 1969.

Intern Allocations with Members of Parliament

At any time during the 42nd Parliament, there were five interns with Liberal members, three with Conservative members and two with NDP members.

Programme Director (CPSA)

Dr. Anne Dance is the first female director in the programme's history. She completed two postdoctoral fellowships at Memorial University of Newfoundland after receiving a doctorate in History at the University of Stirling, Scotland, where she was a Commonwealth Scholar. She was a Parliamentary Intern in 2008-2009.

Programme Assistant (House of Commons)

Lucie Paquette, Senior Administrative Assistant in the House of Commons, completed her work with the Parliamentary Internship Programme in March, 2018. We thank her for her excellent contributions to PIP and welcome Melissa Carrier as the new Programme Assistant.

Programme Administrator (CPSA)

Michelle Hopkins, Administrator of the Canadian Political Science Association, has contributed to the administration of the Program's finances for many years. She continues to provide invaluable support "behind the scenes."

Highlights and Observations

Ronald Hoffman (Barrie, Ontario)



Highlight

Parliament Hill is home to people with incredible ideas and a shocking breadth of expertise, from the Parliamentarians themselves to the staffers we work with to my fellow interns. Thinking back on this year, I'm struck by all the issues I did not know I was fascinated by and the opinions I did not know I held.

Insight

Most Canadians can and should put in more effort to understand those outside their social circle. It is humbling to realize that the issues which make or break the livelihoods of one chunk of the population can be totally ignored by another chunk. Failing to appreciate Canada's diversity not only weakens our political system; it is also an incredible shame to live in a country with a learning opportunity around every corner and not take advantage of that.

Emily Jensen (Stratford, PEI)

Highlight

The privilege of speaking to so many intelligent, accomplished, knowledgeable, and diverse people on a weekly basis. While working in MP offices is incredible and stimulating in itself, these discussions, and the debates among the interns that ensue, allow us to better understand how our daily work fits into the broader political ecosystem.

Insight

One of the most surprising things is the extent to which there is an "Ottawa bubble." This bubble is populated with professionals who speak the same language--the language of Government--in a way that the rest of the country does not. I have often been unsettled by the fact that the conversations about issues happening in Ottawa seemed quite disconnected from conversations I have heard in other parts of the country. We hear often that Canadians are not as engaged as they should be with politics and Parliament, but this goes both ways--Ottawa is not great at engaging with ordinary Canadians either.



Aurélie Skrobik (Montréal, Québec)



Highlight

This experience is difficult to describe to anyone who hasn't lived it. Yet here we were living it, with nine other incredible people, an outstanding director, and a remarkable network of alumni. In this improbable turn of events, where I found myself crossing the political aisle, fist-bumping Members of Parliament, having pizza with Paul Martin and sitting in Holyrood to ponder the merits of the Scottish parliamentary system, the single most beautiful element was the nine non-partisan partners in crime enjoying in the parliamentary décor with me.

Insight

Parliamentarians aren't drawn to Ottawa by prospect of political eminence, and certainly not by the salary. They come here with the hope of effecting positive change—whatever their definition of that may be.

Kim Paradis (Saint-Hilaire, Québec)

Highlight

My visits to my MPs' ridings are definitely one of the highlights of my internship. The two ridings I visited were very different, as was the experience I had in these places. Not only did these visits allow me to discover parts of the country that I had never visited before, but I also had the opportunity to see a different side of the work of the two MPs and their teams. Most of all, I was lucky enough to work with two great teams who took really good care of me during my stay.

Insight

Unsurprisingly, partisanship is pervasive on the Hill. That's why throughout the internship, I wanted to pay special attention to moments of cross-party collaboration. Among other things, I enjoyed the dynamics of some committees in which members of different parties worked together and showed respect and camaraderie towards each other. I found it very refreshing.



Faits saillants et Observations

Patrick Butler (St John's, Newfoundland)

Highlight

PIP was my all-access pass to the House of Commons for a year. This internship opened doors for me that I can't imagine even peering through otherwise. Definitely not as a journalist, at least. Over and over, my understanding of how Parliament works has changed -- for better and for worse -- through close, personal access to people with intimate knowledge of policy and procedure. That, in a place like Ottawa, qualifies as pretty unique opportunity.

Insight

Parliament is an extremely reactive place -- whether to breaking news, new changes to policy, or the latest hot take. I have trouble describing my job because there are rarely days when I can predict what I will be doing in advance. That makes things interesting all the time, and frustrating some of the time.



Rose St-Pierre (Saint Bruno, Québec)



Highlight

The first thing that comes to mind is the unique perspective of interns: we are in a partisan setting, without being partisan. We are engaged, but with multiple parties and commitments. We are the privileged witnesses one of the greatest political machines in the country, and we are the only ones who will observe it on both sides of the partisan lens. It is something like active anthropology. Note to the curious: we quickly became addicted.

Insight

Being a parliamentary intern helps us to better measure the gap between the 'irreconcilable': power and opposition. A surprising conclusion: their objectives are not so different, and it is above all the partisan refrain that widens the gap. At the moment, it seems to me that the only trans-partisan dialogue that currently exists is jousting; could there be space for a real exchange?

Avnee Paranjape (Regina, Saskatchewan)

Highlight

There is something extraordinary in the everyday - the faces that pass in the halls, the idiosyncrasies of parliamentary activity, and the moments when your work has an impact on a House speech, a committee study, or even a policy direction.

Insight

I have gained an immense appreciation for the amount of activity that happens on Parliament Hill that the public rarely learn of, that curricula have little interest in. The intricate machinery of Parliament is composed of far more pieces than I ever imagined - from the procedural clerks, to the analysts, to the layers and layers of political and non-political staff, to the MPs themselves shuffling from engagement to engagement with barely a moment to breathe between. To me, it is this very intricacy that makes Canadian democracy so breathtaking.



Andrew Merrell (Edmonton, Alberta)



Highlight

Throughout the internship, we have had countless opportunities to meet with notable academics, politicians, senior political staff, and journalists. Each meeting added critical nuance or new perspectives to our ever-evolving understanding of Canada's political landscape. The best meetings have always left us with more questions than answers; whether it be a fascinating dinner conversation at a Canadian Ambassador's residence, or discovering Brussels' best Italian pizza with a Member of European Parliament!

Insight

The more we delve into the intricacies of the complex and interwoven political institutions within Canada, the more we realize we still don't know. That's what makes the experience so worthwhile.

Faits saillants et Observations

Alex Miller-Pelletier (Québec, Québec)



Highlight:

I feel privileged to have set foot in the antechambers of both government and the opposition on many occasions. In these moments I felt that I could see how power really operates in Canada. I saw how ministers work, how MPs fraternize during moments of calm... It was an opportunity to observe how many people are working collectively to create something bigger than themselves.

Insight:

I worked for one MP whose constituency is easily traversed by bicycle and for another who cannot access her entire riding by car. I realized then the wealth of working not only with MPs affiliated with different political parties, but also with those representing different regions of Canada and constituents whose concerns are at once similar and distinct.

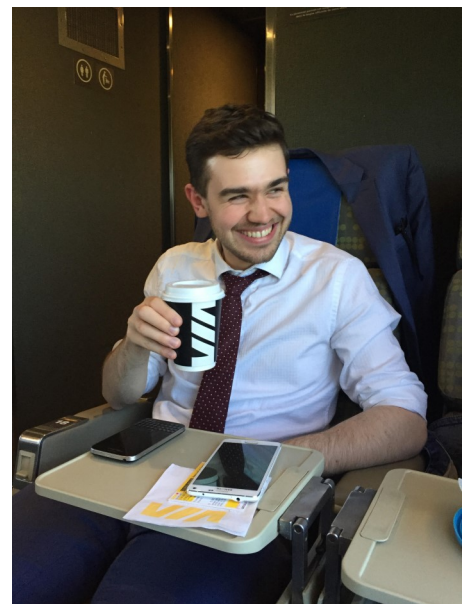
Ross Linden-Fraser (Oakville, Ontario)

Highlight

he highlight is easy: it's the people. There is no doubt PIP will leave me with memories of extraordinary events and skills I'll use in years to come, but the most lasting lessons are the ones I've learned from the wonderful, strange, brilliant people the program brings together. If PIP is anything, it is an experience of intense camaraderie.

Insight

The business of parliament is busyness. There is never enough time to do anything and I have a new appreciation for the pressure our lawmakers work under. But what astonishes me is how much time politics allows for the trivial, the ceremonial, or the procedural, and how little it leaves for decision-makers to sit and think. I suppose that's what staff, the public service, and the Library are for!



REFLECTIONS

Ottawa vs. Outside World: Explaining PIP to Friends

Patrick Butler

There is a particular sort of kinship among people who have taken part in the Parliamentary Internship Programme. A year as a PIP intern, with all its peculiarities, is a difficult one to explain to family and friends.

“So, are you working for an MP?” Sort of, but not really.

“Oh, so you’re working as a researcher?” Umm, not quite, but kind of.

“Wait, but why do I keep seeing pictures of you in all these cool places? What were you doing there?” How long do you have?

Even after 10 months on the Hill, I’m still struggling with how best to describe my job to others. PIP interns, by contrast, have lived it, so they get it. No spiel needed – a welcome relief.

They know PIP is an internship, but a unique one in Ottawa – one with a tonne of privileges and a certain cachet around Parliament Hill. They know it’s a non-

partisan programme, but also one where, as an assistant to an MP, you are regularly bombarded by partisan strategy and gossip.

They also know it’s an unparalleled research opportunity for young poli-sci nerds, but it’s also an experience augmented by the daily, informal interactions interns have with MPs and their staff – constant intangibles that teach you about the House of Commons in innumerable unexpected ways. And they know it’s a chance to compare all you learned working in the Canadian Parliament with other legislatures in Europe, the United States and the rest of Canada.

But just try putting that into a job description. I dare you.

Luckily, there isn’t much time to agonize over how to explain PIP to others when you’re living it. Parliament can be a hectic, reactive place where work happens at a frenetic pace. Busy days and late nights can blend into weeks, and all of a sudden, it’s June and you’re staring down the prospect of soon losing your Hill pass and the 10 closest members of your extended parliamentary family.

Explaining PIP to others will remain a challenge. But luckily, summarizing the relationships among PIP interns will always be easy to articulate: friends bound by an unforgettable year together, with the knowledge they’ve shared an indescribable experience.

Comparative Legislative Study Tours



En route to Edinburgh, January 2018



*Posing in front of Bombardier,
St-Bruno, May 2018*



*At the top of Arthur's Seat, at an altitude of
251 metres, 7 AM, Edinburgh, January 2018*



Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, May 2018



Iqaluit, May 2018



Dufferin Terrasse, Quebec City, November 2017



Washington Monument, DC, March 2018



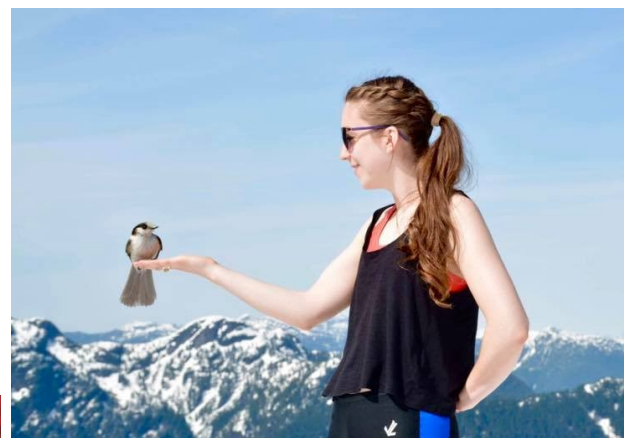
Find the intern, Westminster, January 2018

The streets of London, January 2018



At the Belgian Parliament, January 2018

PIP Photo Contest: A Day in the Constituency



A day in the life...



Throughout the year, the interns organized workshops on the role of MPs for over 240 secondary students from across the country in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Encounters with Canada's Democracy and Youth initiative.



All 10 interns acted as one jury member for Samara's Everyday Political Citizen Contest. Here are Avnee and Aurélie, hard at work reviewing candidates!



Speaker Geoff Regan is not only the patron of PIP but is a big supporter and always takes the time to meet with <—the interns!

In the office: Intern Aurélie working on committee briefs!—>



The interns during a Brown Bag Lunch with the Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie.

Thank you, Members of Parliament!

The Parliamentary Interns would like to extend a sincere thanks to the Members who welcomed interns into their offices this year. Your mentorship, guidance, and leadership make the Parliamentary Internship Programme a phenomenal learning experience. You have inspired the interns to keep sharing their knowledge and to contribute to the democratic process for the rest of their lives. Thank you!

MPs hosting interns October 1 to December 15, 2017:

Hélène Laverdère, NDP (Laurier-Sainte-Marie) - Luc Berthold, CPC (Mégantic-L'Érable) - Bev Shipley, CPC (Middlesex Centre) - Raj Grewal, LPC (Brampton East) - Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, LPC (Beaches-East York) - Gary Anandasangaree, LPC (Scarborough Rouge-Park), Alain Reyes, CPC (Richmond-Arthabaska), Irene Mathysen, NDP (London-Fanshawe) - Randeep Sarai, LPC (Surrey Centre) - Julie Dabrusin, LPC (Toronto Danforth)

MPs hosting interns January 22 to June 30, 2018:

James Bezan, CPC (Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman) - Jonathan Wilkinson, LPC (North Vancouver) - Jenny Kwan, NDP (Vancouver East) - Stephanie Kusie, CPC (Calgary Midnapore) - Rachel Blaney, NDP (North Island—Powell River) - Terry Beech, LPC (Burnaby North-Seymour) - Rob Oliphant, LPC (Don Valley West) - The Hon. Erin O'Toole, CPC (Durham) - Mary Ng, LPC (Markham—Thornhill) - Sean Fraser, LPC (Central Nova)



Our MPs





Congratulations to Claire Sieffert (Intern 2016-17). She was recently awarded the 2018 Alf Hales Prize for her intern paper by the Institute on Governance. She received this prize during a luncheon hosted by the Honourable Geoff Regan, Speaker of the House of Commons, on June 6, 2018.



2017 Alumni Celebration: Bruce Stanton, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, welcomed current and former articling students, MPs and former MPs, senators, sponsors and friends, CPSA members and officials of the House.

Parliamentary Internship Alumni Association: The Association creates opportunities for alumni to stay in touch, find and share employment opportunities, discuss issues of public interest and support the Program. This year, the Association organized three networking events, two seminars and played a leading role in the Celebration of the Ancients. Finally, the annual charity campaign, chaired by Michel Vermette (PIP 1987-88) generated a record number of donations this year. Thanks a lot to everyone who contributed!

Keeping in touch: Former interns can share and search for job opportunities on the Association's Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

Thanks to our Friends and Sponsors!

A commitment to young Canadians, providing quality support to MPs, and increasing knowledge of Parliament are the three goals that unite the sponsors that support the Programme. Their commitment is reflected in their generosity and willingness to share their expertise and experience with the interns. Thank you!



Friends

British High Commission Ottawa
Delegation of the European Union to Canada
Embassy of the United States of America in Ottawa
Fednav
First Air
Institute on Governance
Parliamentary Internship Alumni Association
Via Rail Canada

Platinum

BMO Financial Group / BMO Groupe Financier
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada / Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

Gold

Bombardier Inc.
Canadian Bankers' Association
Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association
Canadian Real Estate Association
CN
CropLife Canada

Silver

BIOTECanada
Business Development Bank of Canada
Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians
Canadian Automobile Dealers Association
Canadian Health Food Association
Chartered Professional Accountants Canada
CIBC
Forest Products Association of Canada
Innovative Medicines Canada
Insurance Brokers Association of Canada
International Union of Operating Engineers
Mouvement des caisses Desjardins
RBC Financial Group
TD Bank Financial Group
UNIFOR
Universities Canada

Bronze

Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Canada
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
Canadian Canola Growers Association
Canadian Credit Union Association
Chemistry Industry Association of Canada
Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada
Estée Lauder Inc.
Genworth Financial
Rogers
Scotiabank



Parliamentary
Internship Programme

The Parliamentary Internship Programme is a non-partisan educational initiative of the Canadian Political Science Association offered in partnership with the House of Commons.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA



Canadian Political Science Association
Association canadienne de science politique